

State Water Resources Control Board

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON GROUNDWATER QUALITY FUNDING PROGRAMS PROPOSITION 1 GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AND SB 445 SITE CLEANUP SUBACCOUNT: PRE-APPLICATION AND SCOPING QUESTIONS

The groundwater quality funding programs (GWQF) include the Proposition 1 Groundwater Sustainability and SB 445 Site Cleanup Subaccount programs. Both GWQF programs will be using the same Pre-Application. In addition four scoping meetings were held in early June for both GWQF programs. Scoping questions were posed for comment and discussion. Written comments are requested responding to the scoping questions, or other considerations commenters suggest. All related documents, including this request, are available at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/gw_funding/. All comments are requested by **June 30, 2015**. Comments received after June 30, 2015 may not be given full consideration due to the accelerated time schedule of both funding programs. **All comments should be sent to** the general email address for all communication for GWQF programs: gwquality.funding@waterboards.ca.gov.

- **GWQF Pre-Application:** Applicant completion of the Pre-Application (Pre-App) is the required first step to apply for funding for projects eligible for the Proposition 1 Groundwater Sustainability and SB 445 Site Cleanup Subaccount programs. Beginning July 15, 2015, applicants will be able to complete the Pre-App, which will be available through Financial Assistance Application Submittal Tool (FAAST). The Pre-App is posted on the web at the link provided above.

The information requested in the Pre-App is needed to review proposed projects. The State Water Board will determine which funding program, if any, is the most appropriate for each proposed eligible project. Applicants will not need to designate a program preference. State Water Board staff will assess potential eligibility of projects and identify the appropriate fund source. All completed Pre-Apps will be reviewed. Eligible applicants will be invited to submit a Final Application, either for Proposition 1 Groundwater Sustainability Program or the Site Cleanup Subaccount, or may be advised to apply for another potential source of funds. Final Applications are not yet available. FAAST will automatically pre-load information from the Pre-App onto the Final Application. Applicants will only need to enter information they did not provide on the Pre-App. The Pre-App will be submitted electronically using the FAAST. To access the FAAST information go to: <https://faast.waterboards.ca.gov/>.

- **Scoping Questions for SB 445 Site Cleanup Subaccount Program (SCAP):** The scoping questions that were presented during four June 2015 scoping meetings can be found at the link provided above. Comments on these scoping questions or other aspects of the SCAP are requested in order to prioritize and identify the types of projects that may be eligible for funding through SCAP. After review of eligible projects, a project list will be provided for the State Water Board to consider for adoption and subsequent issuance of grant agreements.
- **Scoping Questions for Proposition 1 Groundwater Sustainability:** State Water Board staff conducted scoping meetings for the Proposition 1 Groundwater Sustainability Program in June 2015 and solicited input on scoping questions to develop Draft Guidelines. Scoping questions presented during these meetings can be found at the link provided above. Comments on the scoping questions or any other comments related to the development of the draft guidelines are requested by June 30, 2015. The State Water Board will conduct three public workshops to solicit comments and input on the Draft Guidelines, which are anticipated in October 2015. Dates for the public workshops will be announced in the future. The Final Guidelines for the Proposition 1 Groundwater Sustainability Program are anticipated for Board adoption by December 2015.